

March 14, 1844



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V.6 #72

32 P.S. I think all the letters for Seneca
have in declining to be a candidate for the Pres-
idency at such a crisis. I hope Fremont will con-
sider it as an example. The last thing that can be done, pro-
viding it is not too late, is to have all the letters for Seneca
sent by express.

Boston, March 14, 1864.

My dear Johnson:

Your letters, if not ^{always} ~~at~~ promptly
answered, are always duly appreciated.

On mature thought, I have changed
my original purpose of accompanying Mr.
Thompson to Washington, inasmuch as I
wish him to be the one sole object of atten-
tion, and to have concentrated upon him all
the honors that might be divided between us,
provided we were together. I want him thus
to be individually and conspicuously noticed
for various reasons—especially for interna-
tional ones: it will tell well in England,
and help to strengthen the ties of friendship
and amity between both countries. Possi-
bly, but not probably, I may conclude to visit
Washington before the final adjournment of
Congress.

In your last, you diffidently pro-
pose accompanying us to Washington, should

there be no objection, and provided you could make the necessary arrangements - with regard to the Standard, I suppose. Your overture was very gratifying to us both, and all the more so to Mr. Thompson, after ascertaining that I thought it the best policy to remain behind. He has, doubtless, talked the matter over with you; and I trust you will be none the less disposed to go to the Capital with him, because I shall not make one of the party. I am quite sure that Wendell and Theodore would be willing to look after the Standard during your absence for two or three numbers; and I am not less certain that G. T. needs some one to accompany him as a friend and caretaker, and I know of no one he would prefer to yourself.

It may be that, on second thought, the expense of such a trip would be greater than you can well meet at the present time. If so, I know Mr. Thompson would gladly cover any part of that expense, or the whole of it, rather than go without you.

And you need not hesitate about his paying the bill, as he is now receiving a good income from his lectures, which will be steadily augmenting, as he is receiving applications in every direction. So, do not hesitate to be frank about the matter, and every thing shall be arranged according to your needs and your wishes.

The Washington overture is certainly remarkable, and, headed as it is by the Vice President of the United States, and backed up by a long list of prominent Senators and Representatives, indicates how cheering and general is the change in public sentiment. I trust the Hall of the House of Representatives will be granted to Mr. Thompson, and presume President Lincoln will indicate by his presence at the meeting his appreciation of the generous and indefatigable labors of Mr. Thompson to vindicate and uphold his administration, and to cover with infamy the traitors who have seceded from the Union for the most nefarious purposes.

So far as the weather was concerned, Mr. Thompson was unfortunate in regard to his reception at Mr. Beecher's church on Friday night; still, I doubt not there was a large attendance, and an interesting meeting. The sketch of the proceedings, in the Tribune, was a brief and unsatisfactory one. Perhaps some one of the Brooklyn papers made a fuller report: if so, it (or, perhaps, a still better one) will appear in the next Standard. Mr. Thompson is not always equally eloquent, and does ^{not} sustain so even a flight as Mr. Phillips; ^{though he often soars much higher} and he writes to me that he has not felt well about the head since he left Boston. He cannot endure much labor continuously, and has lost a great deal of his early fire and strength. Besides, his deplorable habit of excessive snuff-taking is doing his once marvellously fine voice serious injury. I despair of his ever conquering it.

My dear wife is gaining steadily, a little by little, every week. I trust by summer she will be able to walk. Our love to Mary Anne.

Ever faithfully yours, Wm Lloyd Garrison.